

The Commoner.

ISSUED WEEKLY

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DEMOCRATIC DATES

Democratic primaries or conventions will be held as follows:

- March 14—Kansas democratic state convention.
- March 19—Primaries for North Dakota.
- March 26—Primaries for New York.
- April 2—Primaries for Wisconsin.
- April 9—Primaries for Illinois.
- April 12—New York democratic state convention.
- April 13—Primaries for Pennsylvania.
- April 17—Illinois congressional district conventions.
- April 19—Primaries for Nebraska.
- April 19—Primaries for Oregon.
- April 27—Primaries for Tennessee.
- April 29—Colorado democratic state convention.
- April 30—Primaries for Florida.
- May 1—Connecticut state convention.
- May 9—Iowa state convention.
- May 14—California primaries.
- May 28—Primaries for New Jersey.
- June 4—Primaries for South Dakota.

Roosevelt, who only a few years ago sent President Taft to Oklahoma to argue against the incorporation of the initiative and referendum into its constitution, recently went from New York to Ohio to recommend to a constitutional convention there in session that the initiative and referendum were just about the proper thing to indorse.

That a few men should be in a position to "call panics at will and terrorize the president of 90,000,000 of American people" was pronounced a deplorable situation, the correction of which depended upon a further awakened public conscience.

"The very man who used to make fun of a silver dollar because when you melted it the coin lost one-half of its value," asserted Mr. Bryan, "during the panic of 1907 made you take clearing-house certificates, which, if they burned were entirely destroyed and worthless."

Mr. Bryan supported his declaration that the world was making as much progress in the application of the principles of popular government as it is intellectually and morally, by citing recent developments in Russia, Persia, Turkey, China and Great Britain, where aristocracy and despotism have been eliminated and increased powers given the people in the right to govern themselves and have a voice in making their own laws.

The reception accorded Mr. Bryan at the Perkins hotel between 3 and 5 o'clock in the afternoon furnished convincing proof that the popularity of the distinguished Nebraskan with Oregon people does not wane. In 120 minutes he shook hands with over 2,000 men, women and children, and the lobby of the hotel in which the reception was held was so crowded that it was almost necessary to suspend business altogether.

It was distinctly a democratic gathering. Leading members of the party from every sec-

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tion of the state joined with prominent republicans in the hearty welcome tendered Mr. Bryan. Two or three times in the afternoon when the crowd of visitors had thinned Mr. Bryan repaired to his room for rest, but it would not be fifteen minutes until the lobby was again crowded with persons who wanted "to see Bryan," and the big, good-natured handshaker reappeared and remained every time until the last visitor had been greeted with a firm hand-clasp and Bryan's characteristic smile.

The remarkable ability of Mr. Bryan to remember names, faces and incidents was tested several times in the reception, but in every instance he was equal to the occasion. One of these tests was presented when W. R. McGarry, a Portland lawyer, met the Nebraskan. In the memorable campaign of 1896, when Mr. Bryan made his first race for the presidency, Mr. McGarry was in Grand Rapids, Mich., when the democratic candidate visited that city. On that occasion Mr. McGarry presented Mr. Bryan with a huge potato bearing sixteen warts, symbolical of the "16-to-1" slogan of the campaign. At the time Bryan made splendid use of the unique presentation, and in an address later in the day exhibited the potato with the statement that "even nature itself sustained the verity of the free silver theory."

"I once presented you with a potato," began Mr. McGarry as he greeted Mr. Bryan.

"Oh, yes," interrupted Mr. Bryan; "that was in Grand Rapids in 1896," and both enjoyed a good laugh.

"I have been owner and editor of a newspaper for eleven years and find great pleasure in writing editorials. I am praying for the soul to enter into the editorial sanctum so that editorial writers will refuse to write what they do not believe," said W. J. Bryan at the Press club, where he received an enthusiastic greeting from an overflowing audience. "The newspapers owned by monopolies will then be unable to exist," added Mr. Bryan.

"Journalism will not be at its best until men shall write what they believe; then they will be more believed than they are today.

"I have found that reporters can be trusted with confidential messages, and that they are fair to men in public life. News is sometimes made to fit the editorials, but reporters are not always familiar enough with the Bible to report a democratic meeting."

Mr. Bryan was first introduced in the person of Bill Hanley, the big Oregon rancher, those being deceived acknowledging their ignorance by applause.

MR. BRYAN

Editorial in Portland Oregonian (rep.): The marvel about Mr. Bryan is his abounding optimism and unwavering faith in himself and his ideals. He has been thrice defeated for the presidency; but the iron has never entered his soul. He has been kicked and buffeted about more than any other man since Lincoln, but he emerges with serene and unruffled spirit. Any other would have been soured, crushed, defeated. But not Bryan. He accepts his present position with marvelous good humor and he faces the future with unapproachable calm. There was never anything like it.

The American people like Bryan. They should. He is a great political and moral evangelist. He has not been soiled by contact with tough problems and tougher politicians. If opportunity has passed him by he has not been left alone. Where he goes, there multitudes follow. He is worth listening to, always. He may never be president, but he will always be Bryan. That is a supreme achievement.

MR. BRYAN IN UTAH

Salt Lake City Tribune: Numerous groups of men discussed the speech delivered by Colonel William Jennings Bryan at the Colonial theater recently. The spell of the Nebraskan's oratory was still upon them, and their talk was that of men keyed up to the highest pitch of enthusiasm.

Regret was expressed that the meeting had not been held in the tabernacle, so that all who desired to hear Mr. Bryan could have had the opportunity to do so. There were as many who were unable to gain admittance to the theater as there were of those who were so fortunate as to find place in the building.

It appears that so great was the interest felt in the visit of Mr. Bryan that parties came as far as from St. George, in the very southernmost part of the state. There were many attendants at the meeting from Sampete, Cache, Carbon and Utah counties.

The address created a great impression upon all who listened to it. In the audience and upon

the stage were many republicans who desired to know the great commoner's position upon public questions, and especially upon the situation as affected by the most recent political developments. Local democrats are especially jubilant over the success of the big meeting, which seems to have infused them with new courage. Indications are that the party in Utah will be thoroughly organized for the coming election, as State Chairman James H. Moyle and County Chairman Joseph A. Young are already at work bringing together their respective forces. Other counties have been heard from, all anxious to make preparations for a strong fight in the approaching campaign.

MR. BRYAN IN NORTH DAKOTA

Associated Press dispatch: Fargo, N. D., March 7.—W. J. Bryan made four speeches in Fargo today. Invading the city early the Nebraskan addressed three gatherings previous to the big democratic meeting at the opera house tonight. Mr. Bryan delivered an address to the students of Fargo college, going from there to a meeting of state democrats at a local theater. Extolling Governor Burke of North Dakota and criticising President Taft for alleged misquotation of Abraham Lincoln, Mr. Bryan opened his address at the forenoon meeting of the state conference of northwest delegates. He said Mr. Taft has been so busy following out the Roosevelt policies that he had not had time to think about Lincoln.

"Mr. Taft's whole environment has been that of the dollar," said Bryan and he has never had any real knowledge of men.

In the afternoon Mr. Bryan addressed a large meeting of women at the opera house, his subject being "Fundamentals."

At one of the meetings today, Governor Burke denounced the candidacy of Mr. Roosevelt, saying: "As soon as Roosevelt saw how great was the movement he rushed in in an effort to capture the prize which Senator La Follette had placed in reach. What has Theodore Roosevelt done that should cause him to look upon himself as the savior of this nation? By his action in coming out for the presidency he has as much as said that Taft was not fit for the place, but he has also said that if Taft was the nominee he would be for Taft, showing plainly that he was not sincere in his wish for the great good of all the people."

THE STORY OF THE STEEL TRUST

Read the story of the Steel trust as told in another column of this issue. The points as brought out by the Washington correspondent of the New York World are:

Profit made by J. P. Morgan & Co. in organizing trust, \$69,300,000.

Profit made by trust in nine years, \$1,029,685,389, instead of \$980,000,311 as it claimed, or \$13 a ton on finished product and 40 per cent on cost of material and labor.

In 1907, when Elbert H. Gary and H. C. Frick told President Roosevelt the trust controlled 60 per cent of the steel industry of the country, it controlled 80 per cent.

The effect of the Gary dinners was "to exclude free competition."

The trust controls "2,500,000,000 tons out of 4,462,940,000 tons of commercially available ore in the United States," restraining "competition by making the greater portion of its profits in raw materials and in plants producing semi-finished materials, while the finished product plants make very low profits."

Income of the Carnegie company, \$305,239,537.49, or 40 per cent of the 180 concerns in the trust.

The trust is merely a holding company engaging in no business except the control through stock ownership of the subsidiary companies.

The trust has acquired plants and dismantled them to prevent competition.

The trust prevents competition both in the domestic field and in export trade.

A GOOD EXAMPLE

C. C. Young, O.—Enclosed please find postal money order for \$4.00 for which send The Commoner to the following list of eight subscribers. This makes 24 subscribers I have sent you in the last month. Please send me extra copies of The Commoner, which I will distribute where it will do good. I give all subscribers the campaign rate of 50 cents to get a greater number of readers and consequently a greater number of democratic workers. I will send in names from time to time, especially at the campaign club rate, as it is very easy to get subscribers on this basis.